

GULF DEFENDER



WING MISSION: TRAIN THE WORLD'S BEST AIR SUPERIORITY TEAM FOR THE AIR FORCE

WING VISION: TEAM TYNDALL - TAKING AMERICA'S PREMIER AIR SUPERIORITY TRAINING INTO THE 21ST CENTURY

Vol. 60, No. 12

Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. *Gulf Defender Special Edition*

March 23, 2001

Gulf Coast Salute

TYNDALL AFB OPEN HOUSE



AIR SHOW

March 24th & 25th

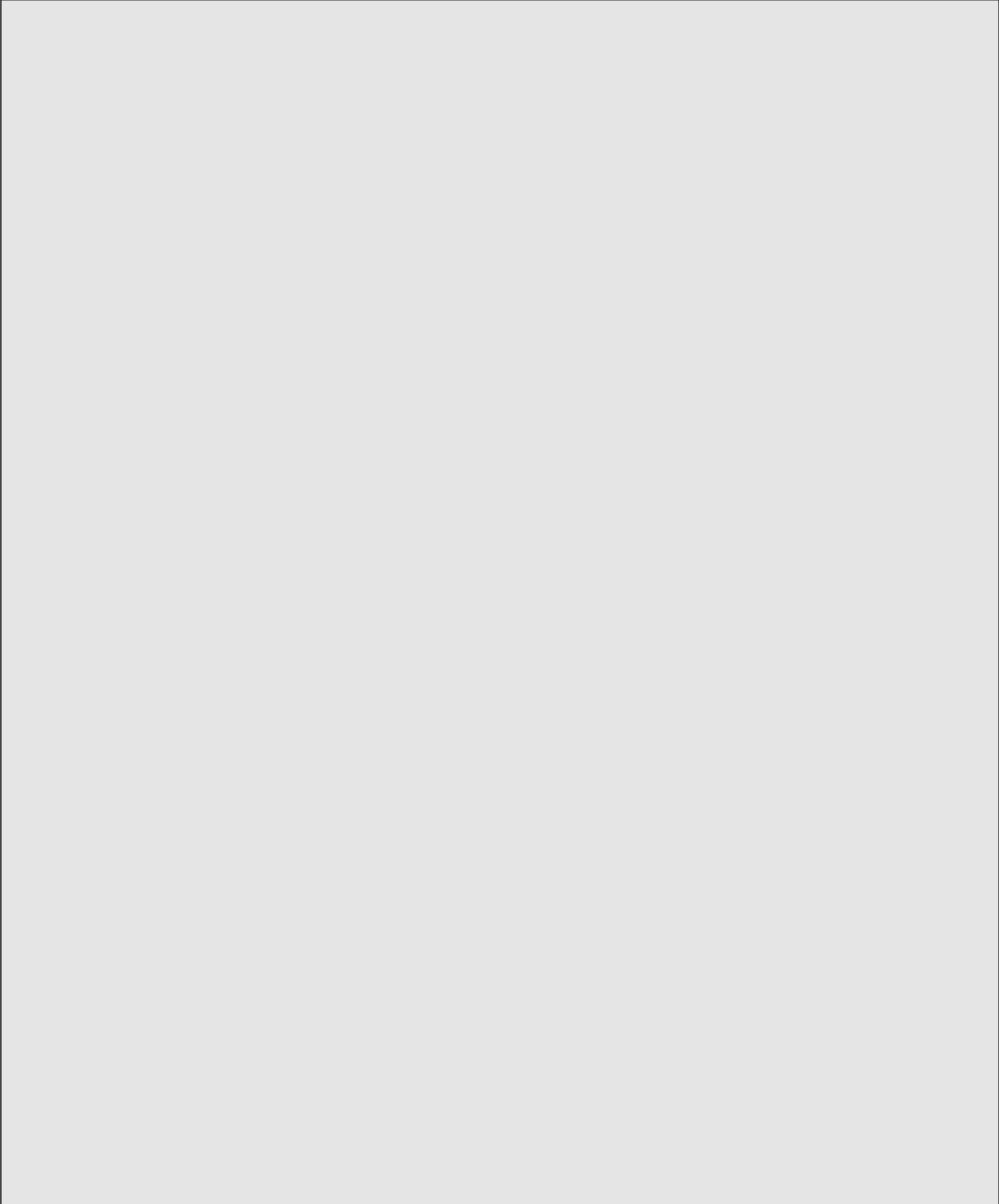
9:00AM - 5:00PM



A Journey Through Time...



Created by David Downey - Bryan-Olson Corp.



Commander's Corner



Brig. Gen. William F. Hodgkins
325th Fighter Wing commander



Welcome to Tyndall Air Force Base and Gulf Coast Salute 2001! This open house is our way of thanking you, our friends and neighbors, for your unwavering support throughout the years.

Team Tyndall has been working to make our air show a special day for you and your family. The activities began last week with our open house regatta and continued with a golf tournament, but those events were just the beginning. We've got a big day planned, with dozens of flying acts and aircraft displays, including demonstrations by the **U.S. Army Golden Knights**, the mighty **F-15 Eagle** and the **A-10 Thunderbolt II**, the tank-killer from Operation Desert Storm. Also

on tap is the **Shockwave Truck** that will rocket down Tyndall's runway at more than 300 miles per hour! The highlight of our show is the **USAF Thunderbirds** who will get your blood pumping with the finest aerial demonstration around. We at Tyndall are proud to wear Air Force blue and we're proud to be your neighbors. We hope you enjoy the day and walk away with a better understanding of the capabilities and quality of your military service.



Every member of Team Tyndall is valuable. Play it safe, don't become a statistic.



TRICARE is here to help. If you need assistance, call your TRICARE service center, (800) 444-5445

Tyndall part of Bay County community

Michael J. Ropa
Chairman
Bay County Board of
County Commissioners

On behalf of the Bay County Board of County Commissioners, I would like to recognize and commend Tyndall Air Force Base and its personnel as we commemorate the great partnership between Tyndall and the citizens of Bay County. This year's Gulf Coast Salute reminds us to be ever mindful of the many sacrifices made by the men and women of our armed services. These men and

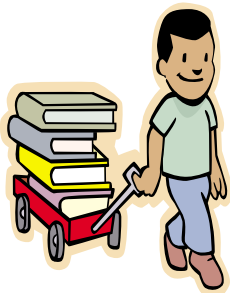


Mr. Mike Ropa

women preserve the freedoms and privileges we enjoy today as leader of the free world. Through Tyndall's beginnings during World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam, Desert Storm and assignments throughout the world to protect those oppressed, we continue to be very proud of the personnel and the mission of Tyndall Air Force Base. With the caliber and professionalism of the people at Tyndall, we in Bay County and those throughout the United States can sleep well at night. We hope you will take an opportunity to participate in Tyndall's Gulf Coast Salute Open House and Air Show 2001.

Tyndall's chapel schedule

Protestant	Recreation: 4 p.m.
Communion Service: 9:30 a.m. Chapel 1	Saturday
General Protestant Service: 11 a.m. Chapel 2	Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday, Chapel 2
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.	Mass: 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Chapel 2
Kids' Club: 2:45-5:45 p.m. Wednesday	Religious education: 10:50 a.m. Sunday
Catholic	Chapel 2: 283-2925
Daily Mass: noon Monday through Friday, Chapel 2	Other faith groups: Call 283-2925



Take time with your kids — read together!



Fighting Heart Disease and Stroke

Thunderbirds celebrate 48 years of tradition

Staff Sgt. Jason Haag
Air Force Thunderbirds
public affairs

NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE, Nev. — The United States Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron “Thunderbirds” is celebrating its 48th anniversary with a busy season. The team will perform more than 60 demonstrations in 29 states and will also return to the Pacific for the first time since 1994.

This year marks the return of the Thunderbirds to the Gulf Coast Salute open house, after a one-year absence.

The team’s first performance was June 8, 1953 at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz. Since then, the Thunderbirds have flown before more than 315 million people at more than 3,500 air demonstrations in all 50 states and 60 foreign countries.

“Our job is to demonstrate the professional qualities the Air Force develops in the people who fly, maintain and support the aircraft,” said Lt. Col. John Venable, the team’s commander/leader. “We are a mirror-image of every other front-line fighter unit in the Air Force. Every member of the team is critical to the success of the mission.

“Because of military budget cuts and downsizing, a perception exists that the Air Force is out of the hiring business — quite the contrary. That’s why the Thunderbirds are here. Our red, white and blue jets are a vivid reminder to young

people that the Air Force is still hiring,” said Colonel Venable. “We need more than 30,000 new recruits this year alone.”

Assigned to Air Combat Command, the team is made up of eight pilots (six demonstration pilots), four support officers, four civilians and more than 120 enlisted in 27 career fields. Between March and November, the Thunderbirds average nearly 70 demonstrations, keeping them on the road more than 200 days.

The Thunderbird diamond formation, flying an average distance between 18 inches and 3 feet apart, represents the skills and training of every U.S. Air Force pilot.

“Because of the aircrafts’ proximity to each other, there’s little margin for error,” explained Maj. Doug Larson, left wing. “With my canopy 18 inches below the leader’s wingtip, I have to have tremendous confidence that he won’t flinch during a maneuver.”

A Thunderbird solo pilot’s job is to highlight the capabilities of the team’s “bird of prey” — the F-16C Fighting Falcon, first flown by the team in 1982.

“The F-16 is the best aircraft to show the crowd what our Air Force is all about,” said opposing solo, Capt. Shawn Pederson. “As solo pilots we demonstrate everything from the slow-speed handling of the aircraft to its maneuverability and agility.”

More than 100 aircraft maintainers ensure the Thunderbirds’ fleet of 12 F-16s are mission capable and

the pilots strap themselves into a safe and reliable aircraft every time. Without their dedication, attention to detail and long hours of preparing for the performance, the demonstration may not be possible, said Colonel Venable.

Twenty-two maintainers who show they have the initiative and the drive it takes to keep the team’s F-16s mission ready, are each assigned directly to an aircraft as a crew chief.

“Our pilots and crew chiefs work closely together throughout the year,” explained advance crew chief Staff Sgt. Eric Wheeler. “It’s a direct reflection of the pride and professionalism that exists in every Air Force unit.”

In addition to pilots and maintainers, there are another 30 people behind the scenes supporting the Thunderbird mission in operations, communications, administration, supply and public affairs.

“Only a handful of Air force specialties are represented on the team,” said Senior Master Sgt. Mary Kochel, Thunderbirds first sergeant. “I haven’t met anyone in this organization that says they’re the best at what they do. Everyone is a true professional who believes they represent their fellow airmen.”

Watching a Thunderbird performance provides only a small glimpse into how 378,000 Air Force professionals perform every day.

“It’s an honor for us to represent the Air Force,” said Chief Master Sgt. Michael Mlodzik, Thunderbirds maintenance superintendent. “It means a lot to all of us representing the quality of the pilots, maintainers and aviation support people who continue to make the U.S. Air Force the best in the world.”



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Kevin J. Gruenwald

In the background, lead solo Maj. Kevin Mastin, breaks away from the formation.



A rare view from the slot position as the diamond formation comes out of the arrowhead maneuver.



A line abreast formation is led by commander/leader Lt. Col. John Venable, from the center of the formation.

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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the public affairs office at Tyndall. All photographs are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise noted.

The deadline for article submissions to the *Gulf Defender* is 4 p.m. Friday, prior to the week of publication unless otherwise noted. Articles must be typed and double-spaced, preferably on a 3.5-inch disc. Stories should be submitted directly to the public affairs office, Building 662, Room 129, or mailed to: 325 FW/PAI, 445 Suwannee Ave., Tyndall AFB, FL, 32403-5425. Public affairs staff members edit all material for accuracy, brevity, clarity, conformity to regulations and journalistic style. The delivery of the *Gulf Defender* to Tyndall base housing sections is provided by the *Panama City News Herald*.

For more information, or to advertise in the newspaper, call (850) 747-5000.

Safety stats

Category	'00	'01	Trend
On duty	1	0	-1
Off duty	10	1	-9
Traffic	5	0	-5
Sports	4	1	-3
Fatalities	1	0	-1
DUIs	14	0	-14

Army ‘ambassadors’ celebrate 40th
year of high-flying entertainment

Courtesy of the U.S. Army
Golden Knights

Performing precision aerial maneuvers while falling to earth at speeds reaching 120 miles per hour, then landing dead center on target is the trademark of the United States Army Parachute Team, the “Golden Knights.” The Golden Knights will perform Saturday as part of Gulf Coast Salute 2001. This is the second year in a row the team has joined Tyndall and the local community for the festivities.

Now in their 40th year of entertaining both young and old with their amazing aerial skills, the men and women that make up the Golden Knights continue to show audiences around the world why they are considered the world’s best parachute team.

Stationed at the “Home of the Airborne,” Fort Bragg, North Carolina, the 90 soldiers that make up the Golden Knights come from many diverse backgrounds and have been trained in one of the 200 military occupational specialties the Army offers.

These soldiers can trace their current positions back to 1959, when Brig. Gen. Joseph Stillwell, then Chief of Staff of XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg, formed the Strategic Army Corps Parachute Team. On June 1, 1961, the Army officially recognized, redesigned and activated the team

as the United States Army Parachute Team. One year later, the team officially adopted the nickname “Golden Knights” because of their winning record of gold medals and conquest of the skies. Just as incredible as the demonstration teams are the two parachute competition teams: The Formation Skydiving Team and the Style and Accuracy Team. The teams tour the world competing in parachuting competitions and amazing the parachuting world with their record of 408 national champions, 65 world champions, and 14 national and six world team titles in formation skydiving.

In addition to those accomplishments, they also claim the only six-time world champion parachutist in formation skydiving and the only three consecutive national champion parachutist in style and accuracy parachuting. These impressive feats have made them not only the most-winning U.S. Department of Defense sports team, but also the most-winning parachute team in the world. Helping support these incredible demonstrators and competitors are

the team’s aviation and headquarters sections. The aviation section consists of six fixed-wing aircraft and a team of highly experienced pilots and crewmembers that make sure the parachutists make it into the air safely and quickly. The headquarters section also has a

●Turn to KNIGHTS Page 9



Gary Winkler

The United States Army Parachute team, the Golden Knights, hold their freefall logo flag on a recent jump.

Youngsters get opportunity to be Air Force pilots for a day

Catherine Layton
*325th Fighter Wing
public affairs*

Most kids, on any given day, want to grow up and have a life of adventure. Race-car driver, firefighter, or world traveler are common aspirations of youngsters. Today, three kids get to fulfill their ambitions of becoming pilots.

Tech. Sgt. Ben Rausa, 325th Operations Group quality

assurance evaluator, arranged a dream day for Tabitha Boddler, 14, Cameron Cohee, 7 and Randy Veasey, 8. Sergeant Rausa contacted the Shaddai Temple in Panama City to find children who would enjoy a day of high-flying fun. While the Shriners were engaged arranging the participants, Sergeant Rausa was busy planning their day.

According to Sergeant Rausa, the day will start early. The first stop is being assigned to a

squadron. Each child will spend about 45 minutes in either the 1st, 2nd or 95th Fighter Squadron. From there they will meet up and go to the simulator building where they will be able to fly an F-15 Eagle simulation. They will be linked together so they can fly with each other.

The kids will then head to the life-support building to be strapped into harnesses that hang from the ceiling, so they can get the feeling of parachuting. They

will be fitted with virtual-reality glasses that will make their experience even more realistic. “Cameron is looking forward to the parachutes the most. He has wanted to parachute for a long time,” according to Cameron’s mother, Lori Cohee.

After dangling from the ceiling, a limousine, supplied by the one of the Shriners members, will take the kids and their families off to the officers’ club where they will be treated to lunch with the pilots. They will then settle back in their limousine and, with a Bay County Sheriff’s escort, be whisked to the Panama City

airport where a Leer jet will be waiting to fly them around Panama City.

The three pilots-in-training will land at Tyndall, where they will be greeted by a crowd of well-wishers, including about 300 of Miss Boddler’s classmates from Merritt Brown Middle School.

As the final act of the day, the Army Golden Knights, the precision parachuting team, will perform for the entire crowd.

“I hope this will be a day these kids will never forget,” says Sergeant Rausa. “I want this to be as good an experience for them as it has been for me.”

Vietnam Veterans’ Memorial Moving Wall

**Parker Memorial Park
Parker, Florida
March 23 - 30**

Opening ceremony

March 23
10 a.m.

Memorial service

March 25
10 a.m.

Candle-lighting ceremony

March 27
6 p.m.

Closing-ceremony

March 30
10 a.m.

WHITE • RICARDO YBARRA • JOHN C. YOUNG
D. BAKER • RAYMOND F. BARDET • BARRY
AM E. BRICKER • JOHN C. CARNEY • ALAN
TH • MICHAEL J. CUTRI • RANSOM C. CYR •
DANIELS • JOHN J. DONAHUE • MICHAEL L.
L. ELDRIDGE • WILLIAM P. FLYNN • PAUL A. G.
D. MILLER • RONALD G. HEMBREE • JOSEPH
DY S. HUBER • RICHARD J. JONES Jr. • GARY L.
KIN Jr. • DENNIS R. MASON • CARROLL R. MEIER
• ROY J. MOHR • MICHAEL J. MOON • JOHN W.
• STEPHEN E. PETERSON • ROBERT J. PLOURDE
BRITCHETT • WILLIAM BLISSO • DONALD P. SC

The Vietnam Veterans’ Memorial Wall is composed of 74 separate frames, each frame containing two silk-screened panels. It is 252 feet long, half the length of the permanent memorial in Washington, D.C.

For more information about the Moving Wall, contact:

Vietnam Combat Veterans, Ltd.
126 Alma Court
San Jose, CA 95112
(408) 288-6305



F-15 West-Coast Demonstration Team shows its combat capabilities

Staff Sgt. Marina Pevey
33rd Fighter Wing
public affairs

Streaking through the sky, thrilling crowds with aerial twists and turns at speeds more than 600 miles per hour, the F-15 West Coast Demonstration Team will add some air-superiority excitement to this year’s Gulf Coast Salute aerial entertainment lineup.

For the team, based at Eglin Air Force Base’s 33rd Fighter Wing, performing for thousands is nothing new. The 14-man team, composed of maintenance personnel, narrators and one pilot, travels throughout the U.S., Canada and Europe performing at more than 65 shows a year. Performing for the crowds is a special thrill for the men and women of this team, said Master Sgt. Tito George, NCOIC of the team.

“We spend a lot of time on the road,” he said. “This is a chance to show the people



Courtesy photos
An F-15 Eagle takes off at a 45 degree angle

of America what we do. The whole team is excited about this opportunity.

“The members of the demonstration team crew are a good example of the quality people we have in the Air Force today,” Sergeant George said. “By taking our jobs on the road, we are able to show them what we do on a daily basis and how it impacts the total Air Force mission.”

During the Gulf Coast Salute performance, Capt. Matt Wilson, the team commander and pilot, will fly a 15-minute, single-ship mission that showcases the F-15 Eagle’s combat capabilities. “Our job is to show the quality people and airplanes paid for by the communities’ tax dollars,” he said.

Without being able to demonstrate the firepower of the aircraft, the demonstration does give a glimpse of what the F-15 can do, Captain Wilson said. “While it is difficult to show the combat capabilities of the F-15 Eagle, the demonstration shows how agile the aircraft is and the raw power of this amazing fighter,” he said.

Sergeant George explained some of the maneuvers spectators can expect to see.

“He will take off and ascend into what is called a split S maneuver. This is a very vertical and high G-force takeoff. He will rise straight upward with the jet performing a half S movement,” he said. “From there he will perform a four-point horizontal roll, where the jet performs four quarter turns to complete a circle. Then Captain Wilson will go into a very sharp vertical turn.”

Other maneuvers Captain Wilson will demonstrate include a Cuban eight, the double Immelmann and a vertical climb with rolls.

“The Cuban eight is a vertical figure eight,” explained Sergeant George. “The



Capt. Matt Wilson

double Immelmann is very similar to the Cuban eight except the pilot performs two complete circles on top of one another. The vertical climb with rolls is basically an upward spiral of the jet.”

Captain Wilson explained that all the moves used in the demonstration are actual maneuvers the F-15 pilots use in aerial combat.

Additionally, Captain Wilson will also participate in a heritage flight following the demonstration. Captain Wilson, in his F-15, will fly 3-ship formation with retired Col. Frank Borman in a F-86 and Vlado Lenoch in a P-51 Mustang. Colonel Borman was commander of the 1968 Apollo 8 mission, the first manned spacecraft to successfully orbit the moon.

“This is a rare opportunity to see the latest fighter technology and some of the best fighters of yesteryear flying together,” said



Past and present – the F-15 Eagle flies with a P-51 Mustang.

Today in history

- 1775 American revolutionary hero Patrick Henry, while addressing the House of Burgesses, declares “give me liberty or give me death!”
- 1857 Elisha Otis installs the first modern passenger elevator in a public building, at the corner of Broome Street and Broadway in New York City.
- 1858 Eleazer A. Gardner of Philadelphia patents the cable streetcar, which runs on overhead cables.
- 1862 Confederate General Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson faces his only defeat at the Battle of Kernstown, Va.
- 1901 A group of U.S. Army soldiers led by Brig. Gen. Frederick Funston captures Emilio Aguinaldo, the leader of the Philippine Insurrection of 1899.
- 1903 The Wright brothers obtain an airplane patent.
- 1921 Arthur G. Hamilton sets a new parachute record, safely jumping 24,400 feet.
- 1951 U.S. paratroopers descend from flying boxcars in a surprise attack in Korea.
- 1970 Mafia boss Carlo Gambino is arrested for plotting to steal \$3 million.
- 1972 The United States calls a halt to the peace talks on Vietnam being held in Paris.

Sergeant George.

There's only one way
to come out ahead
of the pack.

QUIT



American Heart
Association
WE'RE FIGHTING FOR
YOUR LIFE

● KNIGHTS from Page 6

highly skilled team of soldiers and civilians working on the administration, budget, media relations, operations, parachute maintenance and supply concerns of the team.

During the 40 years since its inception, the team's mission has remained the same: to perform live aerial demonstrations for the public and in promotion of the Army's public relations and recruitment efforts; to compete in national and international parachuting competitions; and to

test and evaluate new parachuting equipment and techniques for improved operation and safety.

The exceptional soldiers carrying out this mission are divided into six groups: The Black and Gold Demonstration Teams, the Formation Skydiving Team, the Style and Accuracy Team, an aviation section and a headquarters section.

The Black and Gold Demonstration Teams spend more than 230 days a year entertaining more than 12 million people at air shows and special events around the country and the world. The

teams have performed more than 8,500 live aerial demonstrations in all 50 states and 47 countries, earning them the title of the "Army's Goodwill Ambassadors to the World."

Before earning the chance to jump with the team, each member had to make a different kind of jump by deciding to join the Army. Each team member is a soldier first and is trained in one of the 200 occupations the Army offers. Some wanted to serve their country or maybe see the world, while others wanted to take advantage of the financial bonuses the Army offered to them, such as up to \$50,000 for college, up to \$65,000 to repay college loans or up to \$12,000 for enlisting in selected military occupations.

For 40 years, the team's superior

performances, winning record and exemplary conduct have helped rekindle and sustain a feeling of pride in the hearts of many Americans. The Team's faces may have changed, but every Golden Knight's dedication to the Army and the American public has and will continue to remain steadfast well into the 21st century.

"This is a landmark year as we are celebrating our 40th year of excellence since our founding in 1959," said Lt. Col. David J. Liwanag, Golden Knights commander. "The excellence surrounding the team is based on parachuting, flying and support operations, but most importantly, it's about 40 years of great soldiers who have been part of America's team — a part of the Golden Knights."

Man on the street

What acts are you most looking forward to at the Gulf Coast Salute?



Photos by 2nd Lt. Brian Cortez

Mr. John Darwin
"My wife and I are bringing our three grandkids to mainly see the Thunderbirds."



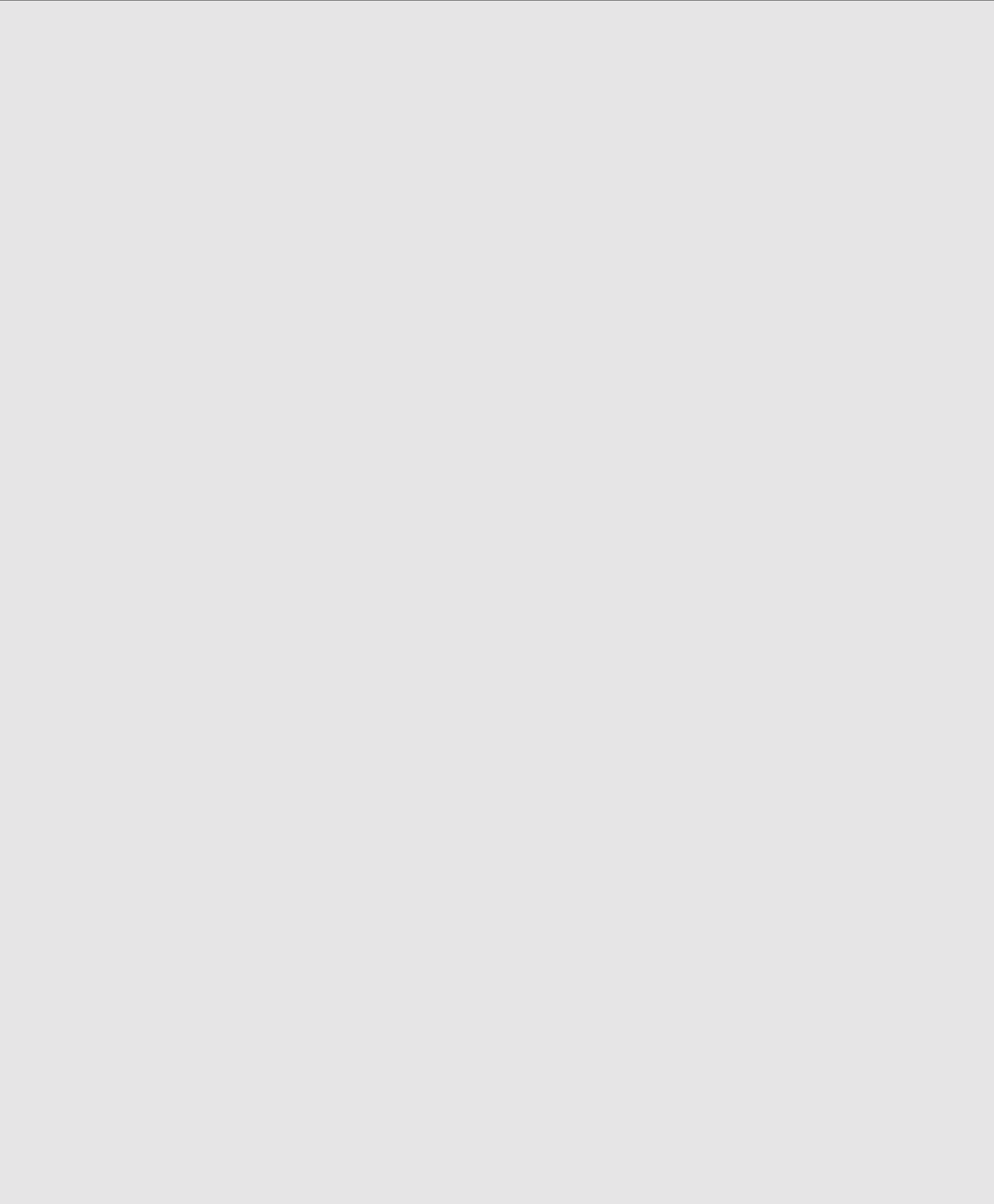
Senior Airman Sherry Rivera
"I want to see the Shockwave Truck as well as the Thunderbirds' performance."

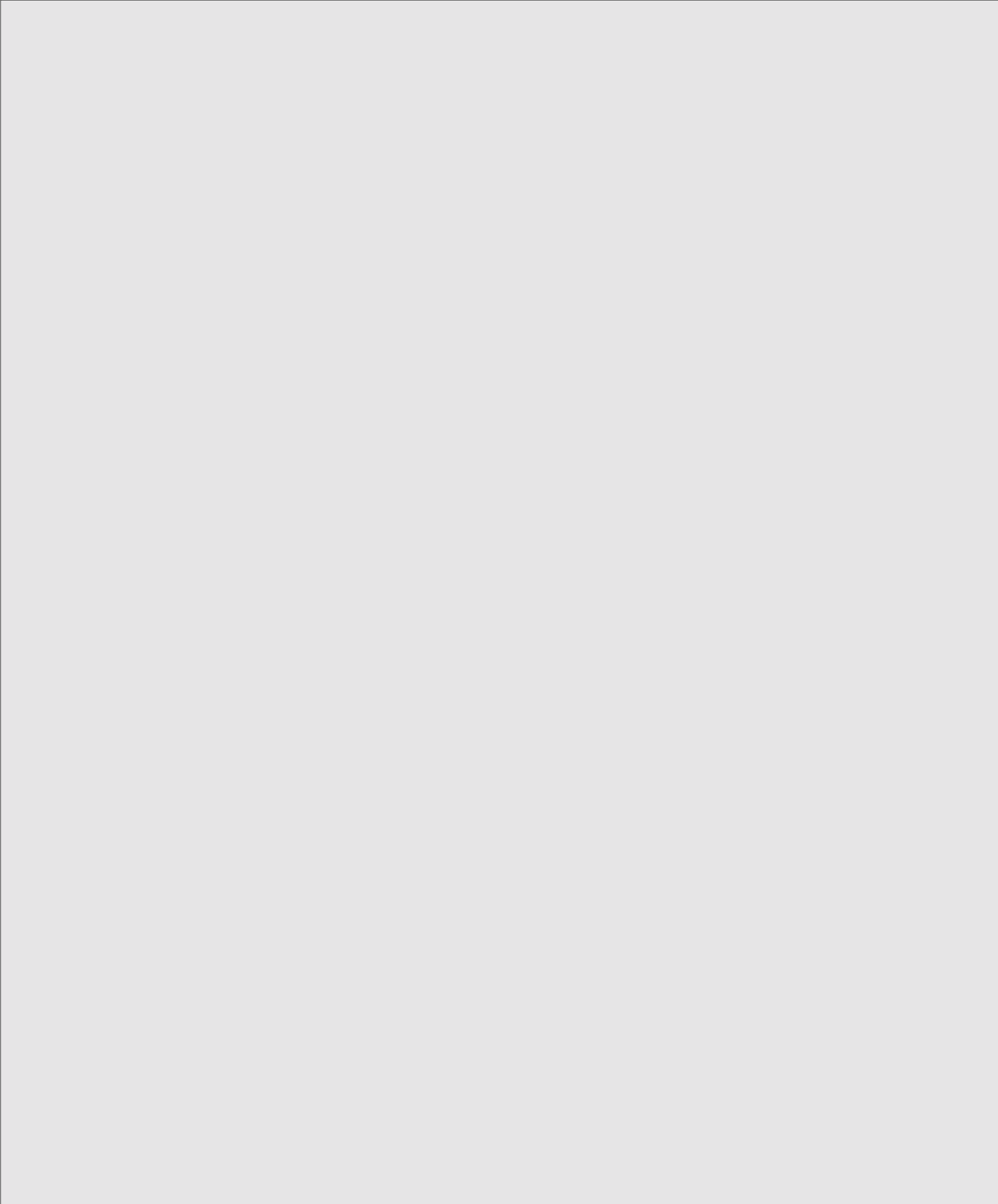


Makenna Rogers
"I just think the show will be fun. And terrific. I want to see the men jumping out of the plane, and the truck."



Col. Don Hansen
"I never miss the air show. No one should miss it. All of the acts are great acts and I am looking forward to the Thunderbirds."





Meet the United States Air Force

Thunderbirds



Lt. Col. John R. Venable



Maj. Douglas N. Larson



Maj. Jonathan J. Greene



Capt. Richard H. Boutwell



Maj. Kevin P. Mastin



Maj. Shawn D. Pederson



Maj. Glen K. Lawson



Capt. Jeffrey I. Wood



Capt. (Dr.) Jay Flottmann



Capt. Jeffrey D. Heyse



Capt. Stacey T. Hawkins



Capt. DeDe S. Halfhill

Meet the United States Army

Golden Knights



Sgt. 1st Class Johnny Mulford



Sgt. 1st Class Mark Keeling



Sgt. 1st Class Pedro Munoz



Sgt. 1st Class Mark Hollabaugh



Staff Sgt. Pete White



Sgt. Harley Mast



Sgt. Dave Dicks



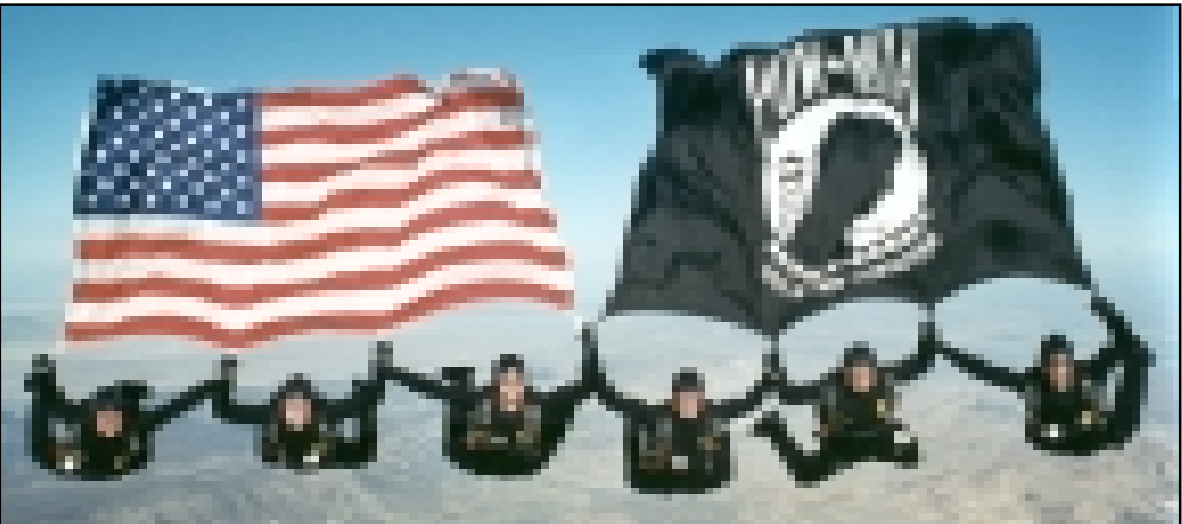
Sgt. Chris Altman



Sgt. Bryan Schnell



Sgt. Dave Wherley



Cpl. Angela Nichols

Civil Air Patrol giving youth a world of different opportunities

2nd Lt. Brian Cortez
*325th Fighter Wing
public affairs*

Looking for some beneficial activities to keep your children busy? Why not sign them up for the Civil Air Patrol?

For nearly 60 years, CAP has given America's youth exciting and challenging opportunities through the Cadet Program. Thousands of young people ranging from the ages of 12 to 21 have experienced hands-on activities at the local, state and national level. Tyndall and Panama City have local chapters of CAP, so you don't have to go far to enroll your kids. They can participate in the wonder of aviation and space by joining CAP, the civilian auxiliary of the Air Force.

According to Master Sgt. Scott Newberry, Cadet Programs Officer, "Our cadet squadron provides the youth with the necessary tools to learn teamwork, responsibility and citizenship." These traits are acquired through the various activities that CAP offers.

There are local activities that include survival training, search and rescue, leadership training, academic and flight scholarships and

flight training. There are also many national activities such as International Air Cadet Exchange, Cadet Officer School, National Blue Beret, Pararescue Orientation Courses, National Flight Academy and Air Education and Training Command Course.

Parents credit the cadet program for communicating to their children the important role that personal integrity, self-discipline and trust play in their personal and professional success. "The thing that really impressed me about the program was if my son excels and continues to move up in rank in the CAP, then he can earn a guaranteed slot at the Air Force Academy," said Captain Laura Palm, 325th Medical Group Medical Officer and CAP public affairs representative.

There are certain requirements that a prospective

CAP cadet must meet:

A cadet must be at least 12 (or attending the sixth grade) up to 18 years old; may remain in the program until age 21; a prospective cadet cannot be married; national dues are \$20 a year; an additional \$16 fee is assessed in the first year for books and course materials and wing dues for the Tyndall chapter are \$60 for senior members and \$55 for cadets.

There are some local CAP cadets doing an outstanding job in CAP. Cadet Airman 1st Class Patrisha Farrell, daughter of Lt. Col. Vinnie Farrell, was recently promoted to cadet commander of Tyndall's CAP unit. And Cadet Airman 1st Class Charlie Isabella was recently promoted to first sergeant.

Our local CAP unit will be having their drill team perform at the Gulf Coast Salute Open house and air show this weekend.

Tyndall's CAP unit meets from 6-8:30 p.m. every Tuesday in Building 852. For more information, contact Art Rathje via e-mail at: pastorart@altavista.com.

Cadet Airman 1st Class Patrisha Farrell, cadet commander, pins Cadet Airman 1st Class Charlie Isabella to the rank of first sergeant.



Tyndall's Civil Air Patrol Squadron practices drill and ceremony Tuesday night.

Photos by 2nd Lt. Brian Cortez

Local Air Force recruiters do more than sign ‘em up

Master Sgt. Rob Fuller
325th Fighter Wing
public affairs

Everything has a beginning, and the start to a “great way of life” begins with a visit to the local U.S. Air Force recruiting office in Panama City.

Tech. Sgt. Otis Nattiel and Staff Sgt. Roy Bradt represent daily to Panama City residents the thousands of men and women wearing the Air Force blue uniform that guards our

nation’s interests around the world.

A former member of the Air Force Security Forces career field, Sergeant Nattiel grasped the opportunity to recruit young men and women out of a desire to help, in a different way.

“I like dealing with people and it’s the main reason I came into recruiting,” Sergeant Nattiel said. “As a member of the security forces, I dealt with people in a different aspect, typically when something bad was going on or there was a life

threatening situation. Now I get to meet people and help them in another way... mold their future and offer them the same opportunities I’ve had.”

A successful start, however, begins well before a visit to the local Air Force recruiting office, according to Sergeant Nattiel. Avoiding any criminal record and scoring well on the Armed Services Vocational and Aptitude Battery test are musts, he said.

“The ASVAB is a guideline to

where a person’s interest lies and their potential as far as job capabilities. Whether it’s mechanical, general, administrative or another field, it points them toward a career choice,” he said.

Beyond a challenging and rewarding career, Sergeant Nattiel says countless opportunities await qualified applicants.

“If you’re looking to succeed in life, then the Air Force is the way to go,” Sergeant Nattiel said. “You’re going to receive more than \$20,000 worth of initial training and automatic enrollment in the Community College of the Air Force, the largest community college in the world.”

“Not to mention the added benefits of travel, housing and food allowances, and those are just a few,” he said.

One of the newest incentives on hand is a bonus between \$1,000 and \$12,000 for people qualifying for certain career opportunities, according to Sergeant Nattiel. Other Air Force benefits include a six-year enlistment option that guarantees a two-stripe promotion 22 weeks after active duty starts, and the Montgomery GI Bill education benefits. According to Sergeant Nattiel, airmen can access a portion of the Montgomery GI Bill fund after their first year of service, and the full amount after three years. The fund can be used up to 10 years after separating from the Air Force.

Proof positive comes from someone who has made the choice. Sean Harrigan graduated from Mosley High School last year and had a guaranteed job waiting for him in the Security Forces career field

following basic training.

“I joined because I’d been part of an Air Force family for 19 years and I had liked what I’d seen,” he said. “I’d experienced the quality of life the Air Force offers and I wanted to do something I enjoy while going to college at the same time.”

Three years in the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program during high school reinforced his already strong tie to the military, he added.

“I want to pursue college, maybe eventually get into the Air Force Office of Special Investigations and someday law school,” he said, referring to long-term plans.

While waiting for basic training to start on the delayed enlistment program, he assisted the local recruiting office in preparing future airmen for duty.

“We held monthly DEP commander’s calls,” he said, “where recruits waiting to leave for basic, throughout the region, met, learned about the Air Force and even practiced some skills such as marching or drill.”

The delayed-enlistment option appeals to many people, Sergeant Nattiel said. “New recruits can often delay entry to basic training up to a full year, based on the Air Force’s needs, during which time we help them prepare for it,” he said.

The bottom line, says Sergeant Nattiel, is to explore all your options, always be open-minded and if you’re looking at all your options, you definitely want to look at the Air Force.

“I guarantee there’s no way you’re going to get everything you’re looking for other than looking at the Air Force,” said Sergeant Nattiel.



Courtesy photo

An Air Force recruiter in San Antonio talks with students at a local high school. There will be a booth with local recruiters set up during the air show.



Tyndall's military working dogs keep entire community safe

Tech. Sgt. Sean E. Cobb
325th Fighter Wing
public affairs

With a low guttural bark and a blurred lunge, the military working dog leaps upon the intruder's threatening arm and drags him down — one more suspect subdued and a situation neutralized.

The 325th Security Force Squadron military working dog section will perform scenarios such as the one above as the second act of the morning at the Gulf Coast Salute air show and open house the Saturday and Sunday.

During these military working dog demonstrations, the military working dog teams will show people the discipline and abilities of the dogs and their handlers in patrolling and securing Tyndall.

Tyndall's K-9 unit not only patrols and secures the base, but also works with the local community, said Tech. Sgt. Jeff Duggins, 325th Security Force Squadron kennelmaster.

"We respond to a 110-mile radius around Tyndall and assist in training dogs for Panama City, the Bay County Sheriff's office, Mexico Beach, Panama City Beach and the Gulf Coast area," Sergeant Duggins said. "We are a close community — the local agencies help us and we help them."

This involvement with the community also enhances a dog handler's training. "Working with other agencies gives me a chance to increase my knowledge of K-9 handling," said Staff Sgt. Jake D. Burkett, 325th SFS military working dog trainer.

The training for Tyndall's military working dogs is varied and extensive.

"Out of the six dogs assigned to Tyndall, two are trained in narcotic detection while the other four are trained in explosives," Sergeant Duggins said.

All narcotics and explosive-detection dogs are also dual-certified in patrol. "While patrolling, they look for just about anything out of the ordinary and have the ability to respond aggressively to all types of criminal behavior — not just bombs and drugs," Sergeant

Duggins said. The dogs' responsibilities range from building checks and car searches to assisting in solving criminal cases. "We use the dogs to conduct periodic bomb checks of facilities around the base, apprehend criminals, run counter-drug operations on detained vehicles and aid the Air Force Office of Special Investigations and local agencies with their investigations," Sergeant Duggins said.

A military working dog's 11-12 year career begins while they are still with the breeder. "When

we receive the dogs from the breeders they have already been taught to bite, sit on detection of an odor and not be afraid of gun fire," he said. However, even though these dogs are acquired with some basic job knowledge, the training

process takes years. "The dogs are first evaluated and must meet certain criteria before even entering the training program," Sergeant Duggins said. Once accepted into the program, they go through a six-week course in patrol. "In this course, the dogs learn how to do everything we need them to do — attack, bite, pull, stand-off, search buildings and scout," he said. "At the end, the dogs are tested to see which they are better suited for — narcotics or explosives."

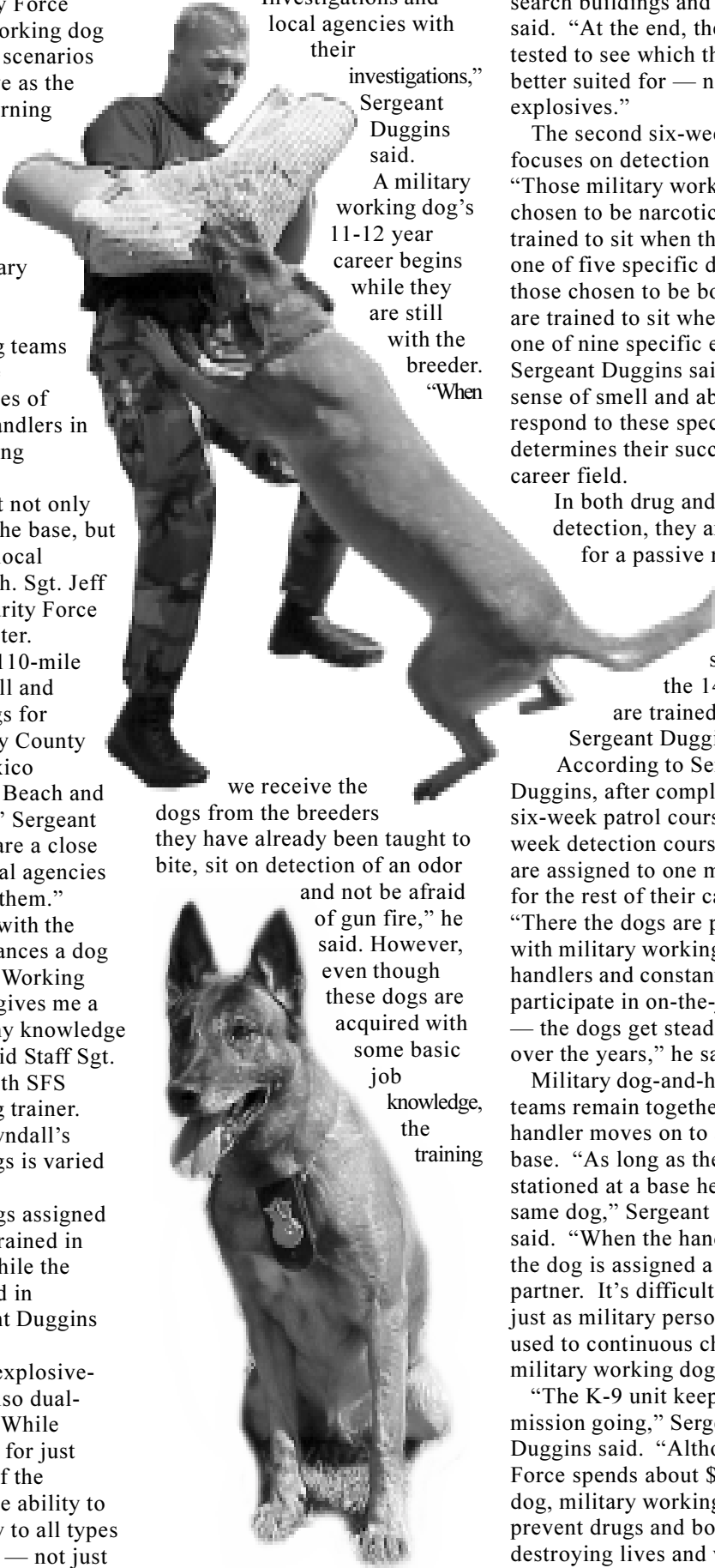
The second six-week course focuses on detection work. "Those military working dogs chosen to be narcotics dogs are trained to sit when they smell one of five specific drugs, while those chosen to be bomb dogs are trained to sit when they smell one of nine specific explosives," Sergeant Duggins said. Their sense of smell and ability to respond to these specified odors determines their success in the career field.

In both drug and bomb detection, they are trained for a passive response. "The dogs sit down when they smell one of the 14 odors they are trained to detect,"

Sergeant Duggins said. According to Sergeant Duggins, after completing the six-week patrol course and six-week detection course, the dogs are assigned to one military base for the rest of their career. "There the dogs are paired up with military working dog handlers and constantly participate in on-the-job training — the dogs get steadily better over the years," he said.

Military dog-and-handler teams remain together until the handler moves on to another base. "As long as the handler is stationed at a base he has the same dog," Sergeant Duggins said. "When the handler leaves, the dog is assigned a new partner. It's difficult at first, but just as military personnel are used to continuous change, so are military working dogs."

"The K-9 unit keeps Tyndall's mission going," Sergeant Duggins said. "Although the Air Force spends about \$2,500 per dog, military working dogs prevent drugs and bombs from destroying lives and valuable resources."



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Sean Cobb



Thinking about getting out? Think again!



Get the facts first. Call Chief Master Sgt. Ron Georgia, 325th Fighter Wing career assistance adviser at 283-2222 (283-Career Assistance Advice Anytime).

Safety measures make air show more enjoyable

Maj. Warren Benjamin
325th Fighter Wing
chief of safety

This year’s Gulf Coast Salute open house and air show will be the best ever. There will be World War II warbirds, static displays and, of course, the crowd-pleasing Air Force Thunderbirds. It should be a day full of fun and excitement for the entire family.

However, before climbing in your vehicle and driving out to the air show, there are a few guidelines you should keep in mind that will help you maximize your enjoyment and minimize any problems or hassles.

Preparation:

- Wear clothing that is comfortable and appropriate for the weather. Pay special attention to your footwear. After all, you will be on your feet most of the day doing a lot of walking and, if

you plan on climbing aboard any of the aircraft displays, tennis shoes probably provide better protection to your feet than sandals or flip-flops do.

- Think sun protection. There is very little shade available on the Tyndall flightline where the airshow will take place. That means sunscreen and, for a full day in the sun, being able to reapply the sunscreen throughout the day. Wearing a baseball cap or summer hat to help shade the face is a good idea too. Consider carrying an umbrella as a substitute parasol to provide your own shade. Just be courteous to others around you if you do raise an umbrella.
- Think fluids. A full day in the Florida sun means dehydration unless plenty of fluids are consumed. There will be booths in the air show area selling both food and beverages. However,

backpacks and coolers are allowed. It is quite a walk from parking areas to carry a cooler. There will be a shuttle service available from the various parking areas to the air show. Glass containers are prohibited on the flightline since they are easily broken.

- A light-weight beach chair or blanket might come in handy once you have seen all the aircraft static displays and are ready to sit, rest and watch the aerial demonstrations, including the Thunderbirds.

Travel:

As you load up your vehicle, ensure everyone has a seat belt and uses it. The base enforces the use of seat belts. Also, do not load people, children or adults, into the bed of pickup trucks. It doesn’t matter whether the truck bed is enclosed or not — what matters is that there are no proper seats with

seat belts for them in the pickup truck bed.

Air Show:

- The air show is held on the flightline which has many hazards. Please do not stray into unauthorized areas — they will be posted with warning signs. This is for your own safety and protection.
- Use caution when walking around and under the static display aircraft. There are many projections hanging under the aircraft at just the right height to give a nasty cut to your forehead. If someone you know is surprised and gets nicked, there is a first aid station on the flightline.
- No smoking is allowed near the aircraft due to the jet fuel they carry. Please respect this rule for the safety of others.
- We ask that you not climb on any elevated structure, such as a cinder block wall, to gain a better view of the airshow. Most of those walls enclose a hazard we are trying to protect you from, and we don’t want anyone endangered by slipping off the wall.
- Most of the aerial demonstrations are by aircraft powered by jet engines. Jet engines can be damaged by ingesting a foreign object, such as

paper cups, soda cans, etc. We don’t want to cut short any of our demonstrations due to foreign-object damage, so please use the trash receptacles throughout the air show area.

- Alcohol will be available at some of the beverage booths. Don’t spoil your day, or anyone else’s, by drinking to excess at the air show. The security forces (base police) are not looking to detain anyone, but they will if required. Along with that, please don’t drink and drive, have a plan — have a designated driver if you wish to indulge.
- Lastly, and most importantly, let’s watch out for our small children. There will be large crowds at the air show, and small children can easily become disoriented and lost. We ask that everyone look out for the children and if you find a lost child, please bring them to the “lost parents” booth.

Again, thank you for spending a few minutes reviewing these common sense safety guidelines. This should prove to be a great weekend for the entire family. What a great way to kick off spring 2001 in the Greater Panama City area and Tyndall AFB. See you at the air show.



Gulf Coast Salute Regatta boats race wind

Tech. Sgt. Sean E. Cobb
325th Fighter Wing
public affairs

Fighting contrary winds and heavy rains, 12 sailboats set sail Saturday from Tyndall's Beacon Beach Marina to run this year's Gulf Coast Salute Regatta.

The regatta, sponsored by the Beacon Beach Marina Club, got off to a rocky start this year, said Stan Hussey, 325th Services Squadron Beacon Beach Marina Club assistant manager. "The race went well, however, the weather didn't cooperate," he said. "The winds were out of the north at 12 knots at the start and died and shifted 180 degrees near the end of the race — then the rain came. Twelve boats started the race with nine completing the 12-mile course.

Using national regatta rules, the boats started in front of the Beacon Beach Marina Club, sailed the racecourse of 11.8 nautical miles and finished back in front of the club.

The winners this year are: First place,

Rich White in "Poinciana," a 20-foot San Juan sloop with a winning time of four hours.

Second place, Frank Noragon in "Orion Flow," a 26-foot MacGregor sloop with finishing time of four hours and four minutes.

Third place, Mike Corbett in "Blue Raven," a 23-foot Ranger sloop with a finishing time of four hours and nine minutes.

The regatta was better in other ways in spite of the weather, according to Mr.



Marcia Robertson

Participants in the Gulf Coast Salute Regatta fought winds Saturday. This year's race was won by Rich White in "Poinciana."

Hussey.

"We were able to supply more prizes this year," he said. "We had major corporate sponsorships for door prizes so that all skippers who entered the race won something, for that we would like to send a special thanks to Shelby Broadwell from the 325th Services Squadron marketing office for her hard work in rounding up our corporate sponsorship this year.

"We also had major news coverage from the newspaper and local TV stations," Mr. Hussey said. "That was a big plus."

The corporate sponsors for this year's regatta were: Earnest Sports Center, AG Edwards, Panama City Marina, CB Sails, Capt. Anderson's Restaurant, Boardwalk Beach Resort, Boater's World, Cingular Wireless and Sea Tow.

Overall, the Gulf Coast Salute Regatta went swimmingly according to Mr. Hussey. "This year's race was a real success," he said. "We all had a good time, everything went really well."

Assembly of Tyndall's first operational F-22 under way

FORT WORTH, TEXAS – Assembly of the first operational F-22 Raptor fighter began in Fort Worth, Texas today during a short ceremony attended by Air Force officials from Tyndall – the future home of this particular next-generation aircraft.

"We're pleased to begin this, the 20th mid-fuselage we've built since the program began in 1991," Gary Keith, Lockheed Martin Aero deputy program manager for the F-22 said during the event. "With each one, we've learned how to build them more quickly and more cost effectively."

During the ceremony, LM Aero

mechanics began assembling the aircraft's mid-fuselage, the largest and most complex structural component of the F-22. It is in the mid-fuselage where the aircraft internally carries its weapons, much of its fuel and a large number of its major subcomponents, including the majority of the Raptor's electrical, hydraulic, landing gear and flight control systems.

Assembly of the mid-fuselage for Raptor 4018, as this F-22 is designated, will take approximately 11 months. Once completed, it will be delivered to LM Aero's Marietta, Ga., facility, where the aircraft's forward fuselage, wings, aft fuselage, and vertical and horizontal tails will be attached and its F119 engines will later be installed. First flight and delivery of Raptor 4018 to Tyndall are tentatively scheduled for early 2003.

Tyndall is home to the Air Force's 325th Fighter Wing, the "schoolhouse" where future F-22 pilots will be trained to fly and fight in this 21st century air-dominance

fighter. The assembly is a key event in the program's march toward delivering the first F-22 Raptor to Tyndall.

"The 325th Fighter Wing looks forward to welcoming the F-22 to the Florida panhandle, and to the prospect of training pilots and maintainers with the very best fighter aircraft in the world," Lt. Col. Lee Hinkle, chief of the F-22 Integration Office at the 325th FW, said during the ceremony.

"The F-22 will launch a new era in air combat. We are excited about the future it will provide the Air Force, and we are proud to integrate the Raptor into our mission and embrace the challenges that lie ahead," he added.

The F-22A Raptor is the world's first stealthy air-dominance fighter, and is capable of multiple missions. Deadly and unseen at long range, unmatched at close-in dogfighting, and with superb, precision ground attack capabilities, the F-22 will dominate the skies over any future battlefield.

The F-22 is being built by Lockheed Martin (and Boeing as principal subcontractor, with engines supplied by Pratt & Whitney) for the Air Force. It is currently in the engineering and manufacturing development (EMD) phase.

To date, LM Aero has built 19 F-22 mid-fuselages. The first 11 were used by the program's flight or ground-test aircraft. Three more mid-fuselages were built for the program's Production Representative Test Vehicles (PRTVs), test airplanes that will later join the Air Force's operational inventory. LM Aero is currently assembling five additional PRTV mid-fuselages, and all will be finished during 2001.

The Air Force plans to field 339 Raptors during the next decade to replace its fleet of F-15 Eagles. The first Raptor squadron is scheduled to be operational in 2005.

For more information about the F-22 Raptor, please visit our web site: www.f22-raptor.com



Mr. Derk Blanset

Staff Sgt. Michael Graves, an avionics specialist with the F-22 Raptor Combined Test Force at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., inspects one of the three next-generation fighters being tested. F-22 maintainers use a specialized laptop computer when running diagnostic checks on a Raptor.

I had an experience:

New, state-of-the-art simulators offer communities chance to get ‘hands-on’ experience

The Air Force Experience is a high-tech, interactive attraction designed to showcase career opportunities and help reconnect the Air Force with the American public. This one-of-a-kind road show tours the country complete with an F-16 fighter jet, bold video presentations, computer kiosks and a fleet of customized flight simulators designed to let visitors take a high-speed “virtual” mission. This educational and entertainment experience offers excitement and a bit of an edge in a style especially designed to ignite the interests of young adults between ages 17 and 25.

“The Air Force Experience is a fresh approach to educating the American public about the mission of the Air Force and assisting recruiting in today’s competitive market,” said Brig. Gen. Peter U. Sutton, Air Force Recruiting Service commander. “Taking the display with a real F-16 out to places where Americans rarely see the Air Force up close is a win-win situation. Americans can learn firsthand what their Air Force is doing, and it provides recruiters a great forum to get out our message about opportunities for young men and women to become part of the world’s greatest air and space force.”

The Air Force Experience is an action-packed, high-tech presentation that offers excitement and a bit of an edge — a style especially designed to ignite the interest of young adults between ages 17 and 25. This 20-minute interactive attraction, designed to travel on a national tour, is both educational and entertaining.

The trailers

The exhibition travels inside two customized 18-wheelers that are 53 feet long, eight feet wide and 14 feet high. One boldly designed tractor trailer holds the F-16 Fighting Falcon. The other, with a 7-foot by 7-foot video screen on the exterior, contains the

show’s computer kiosks, video equipment, briefing room and flight simulators. It has been customized to expand another 10 feet in length when accommodating visitors. On top of both trailers are viewing decks well-suited for news crews to take overhead pictures of the visitors below. The tops of the trailers are designed to look like runways.

F-16 Fighting Falcon

The F-16 Fighting Falcon is a compact, single-seat, all weather, multirole fighter that has proven itself in air-to-air combat and air-to-surface attack. The F-16 Fighting Falcon is 49 feet 5 inches long, stands 16 feet tall and has a wingspan of 32 feet 8 inches. The F-16 can fly as fast as 1,500 mph (Mach 2 at altitude) and higher than 50,000 feet. This jet has been specially modified to fit into one of the trailers.

Giant video screen

A 7-foot by 7-foot video screen, built in to an exterior side of one of the trailers, plays a continuous stream of action-packed video shorts for those waiting their turn to enter The Air Force Experience. Visitors will see videos of Air Force members working around the globe, as well as performances by the Air Force Thunderbirds demonstration team, a sneak peek at the futuristic F-22 Raptor and much more.

Interactive kiosks

Visitors enter The Experience six at a time. They begin at six kiosks, where they set up “authorization” for their mission by typing in their name, age, address and other “vital statistics.” They also have their picture taken for their Experience identification cards, receive a “call sign” for their flight and are “assigned” to a nearby Air Force base.

Briefing room

Once cleared for their mission at the kiosks, visitors are led to their pre-flight briefing in the next room. The on-screen narrator gives the new pilots a weather report, details of their mission and a description of what they’ll experience in the simulator, such as the “heads-up” display, and directions on how to work the F-16 controls. Pilots then head to the simulators in the next room for their flights.

Flight simulators

From takeoff to landing, pilots are treated to realistic graphics and sound, while using the same control sticks as those used by the Air Force in its own simulators. The seats in the cockpits vibrate just enough to give the feel of a jet’s movements.

The six pilots fly their five-minute mission in a group, speeding low and fast through a canyon to avoid enemy radar. During the mission, pilots will use the 20mm cannon and air-to-surface munitions to shoot unmanned targets such as bridges and an abandoned oil derrick. The flight ends after giving the six rookie pilots a chance to land back at the Air Force base.

Photo and informational mini-CD

When visitors finish The Air Force Experience, they are handed a commemorative Air Force Experience photo ID card with their picture, name, call sign and air base printed onto the card. They also receive a credit card-sized CD packed with graphics and flash technology, which allows the viewer to learn about the Air Force past, present and future. In addition, visitors learn about the F-16 and Air Force career opportunities. The CDs also contain a fighter jet screen saver and a hyperlink to Air Force web sites.

